

FINMERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 11th May 2010 in Fimmere Village Hall

Present:- Councillors, Mike Kerford-Byrnes (Chairman) (MKB), Barbara Cunningham (BC), Kevin Ochel (KO), Anna Wood (ANNW), Dr Adrian Wood (AW) and Mike Kirby (MK)

In attendance:- Sharron Chalcraft (Parish Clerk) (SC), Ian Macpherson (Treasurer) (IM) and 3 members of the public

1. Apologies:- Apologies were received from Cllr Katherine Grimston and County Cllr Catherine Fulljames

2. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

MKB welcomed the new and returning councillors to the PC.

Chairman Mike Kerford-Byrnes (having indicated his willingness to continue)
Proposed: Kevin Ochel
Seconded: Mike Kirby
Carried unanimously

Vice Chair Katherine Grimston (having indicated her willingness to stand in absentia)
Proposed: Barbara Cunningham
Seconded: Adrian Wood
Carried unanimously

Treasurer Ian Macpherson (having indicated his willingness to continue)
Proposed: Kevin Ochel
Seconded: Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Carried unanimously

Parish Clerk Sharron Chalcraft (having indicated her willingness to continue)
Proposed: Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Seconded: Kevin Ochel
Carried unanimously

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of 6th and 7th of April were circulated and approved.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This was postponed as Cllr Fulljames was unable to be present.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting of 6th April:

- 5.01 **Moss on Roadway** SC is to check that this has been removed
- 5.02 **Freedom of Information** c/f
- 5.03 **Village Noticeboards** KO and MKB to connect on this matter, KO to email availability to MKB.
- 5.04 **PC Website** SC is to mail August minutes to BC for correct version and amend accordingly. All councillors are to prepare a profile with photo and send to AW for forwarding to Paul Nash, website coordinator.
- 5.05 **Verge Clearance** John Donaldson, grass cutting contractor, has had some difficulty cutting the verge along the old Banbury Rd due to cars for sale being parked on the road, but this has now been done. More villagers have also started taking care of the verge in front of their own houses.
- 5.06 **Christmas Lights** c/f
- 5.07 **Diamond Jubilee** c/f.
- 5.08 **Draft Core Strategy Consultation** There will be further dialogue on this issue, with a possible initiative to place more development in towns being suggested.
- 5.09 **Spring Clean** This took place as planned and a surprising amount of rubbish was removed, including quantities of concrete that had been dumped in the ditch and also dog mess, dumped in plastic bags. SC is to speak to Jenny Blake, former councillor in charge of dog matters, about procurement of dog bins with the purpose of placing one at the western end of the village, possibly by the gate into the gated road at Hill Leys. MKB is to make some “bag it and bin it” signs and SC is to speak to the CDC dog warden about further signage.
- 5.10 **Playing Field Trees** SC is to forward the Mixbury Trust o/s plan to BC so that she can plot the trees in question on it. SC is to contact CDC about the procedure for placing preservation orders on trees in this situation.
- 5.11 **Historically Significant Buildings List** SC is to update and forward this with the minutes.
- 5.12 **Grass Area by Cross Tree Pillar Box** SC has emailed the PO and had no reply. Phillip Rushforth, member of the public and former councillor, asks to submit a comment at this point, explaining that he had no reply from the PO to any of the enquiries on this matter he made when a councillor. SC is to chase the matter up.
- 5.13 **Yew Tree Motor Works Change of Use** SC has contacted Bob Adams, OCC Highways, and CDC and has been told that to park more than one car on the road for sale is against regulations. Bob Adams is checking into the best way to proceed. BC explains that the situation has improved slightly, since her request to the new owner on the matter of relocating the signboard at the road junction due to visibility problems.

- 5.14 **CPRE Letter on HS2 Rail Link** A meeting is to be held in the village on Friday May 21st. This is not a public meeting but councillors are welcome to attend. KO will definitely attend as Warren Farm is the most affected part of Finmere.

Minutes of the meeting of 7th April:

- 5.15 **Numbers present** MKB checks whether his recording of 30 members of the public present at the meeting was accurate, this is confirmed.
- 5.16 **Power point presentation slides** MKB asks whether these should be printed and placed as appendices to the minutes, it is agreed that this should be done.
- 5.17 **HS2** MKB is to contact other groups and circulate their data to councillors. The comments of Alastair Fraser, past Chair of Newton Purcell Parish Meeting, raised points and issues. The hardship relief proposals cover having to sell your house because of bereavement or needing to move because of your job, but not divorce or probate issues. The relief does not apply to farms at all. MKB is to write a draft document and circulate, councillors to return comments promptly as this must be sent by 20th May.
- 5.18 **Planning Proposals** MKB has drafted a response and circulated for comments; this has been submitted in line with the consultation dates.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that there was £604.89 in the Treasurer Account, £6,004.62 in the Business Money Manager Account and £25,000 in the Deposit Bond.

The following had been paid out:

£73.24 to Sharron Chalcraft (administration and running costs)

£85.35 to CDC for dog bin emptying (running costs)

£130.30 to OALC for membership (administration)

The following had been paid in:

£200.00 from Finmere Sports Club repayment of loan

£2,750.00 from CDC, parish precept

£337.34 from HM Revenue and Customs, VAT repayment

The following had been transferred:

£2,600.00 to Money Manager

7. S19/137

No submissions were received.

8. FINMERE LANDFILL SITE UPDATE

A liaison meeting was held this month; the minutes presented by PA were queried by BC as inaccurate. The quarry opened again on January 28th, both selling aggregates and taking in waste. The site is still for sale. The road to Cell 8 has been reconstructed; the eastern end of the site is active. Condition 23 scheme (weed control) has been submitted. Planning condition appeals have been submitted. The survey for restructuring has been completed and an extended finish date has been proposed. There were two objections to the MRF stack, OCC is to decide this issue. There is still no second phase of power generation but flare stacks are undergoing ongoing improvement. The Foxley Fields bungalow appeal, on demolition and relocation, has been dismissed. There are plans to extend exploration to the north in future. The scoping report to OCC is imminent. Permit conditions have been signed by the EA. Ground and surface water and slopes plans have been submitted, there are to be discussions on leachate, odour and dust. The company came out of its CVA (company voluntary administration) on 9th December, paying 28p in the £1. There have been 4 odour complaints, 3 by EA and 1 by MKB. There have been two breaches of ambient air quality; EA says this is to be expected until the cap is in place. The EA has carried out 3 inspections, at the end of each month and two odour pockets have been found. The EA hope to start static monitoring in August. The MRF has had four visits and spot checks. The height was checked in a survey on 19th March, scrutiny is ongoing. There is no confirmation on appeal results, the MRF rectification application is in. It is planned to dig exploration holes in the land between the quarry and the A421. The next liaison meeting is on 1 July. The public inquiry into the submitted appeals is to take place on September 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th and 9th. The village hall has been booked. The MRF and cells 10 and 11 make the site more than viable. KO points out that a landfill elsewhere on the planned HS2 route is to be moved. HS2 means that the deposited waste may have to be moved, MKB points out that the EA will have to deal with this eventuality. It is felt that the PC should approach former FAMLAW members and ask if this organisation could be restarted.

9. HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS LIST COMPILATION

There are no additions this month; SC is to circulate the updated list with the minutes.

10. HANDLING INTERACTION WITH THE PRESS

Following last meetings AOB item MKB has been in touch with democratic services and asked them to clarify the situation for councillors being approached by the press. They confirm that a person does not forfeit their rights as an individual when becoming a councillor. Just as any villager could speak to the press on local issues so a councillor is free to express a view. At no time however must the councillor claim to be speaking on behalf of the council. MKB had not claimed to be speaking for the PC when interviewed for tv and press last month. Democratic services confirmed that it is not the councillors responsibility to think how people may construe, or misconstrue comments made. MKB confirms that he will go a step further in future and definitely state that he is not representing the council, rather than simply not stating that he is. It is felt that it would be best to have a policy as a PC on dealing with the press. The question is raised as to whether the PC should formulate a policy or approach democratic services for suggestions. AW points out the importance of

taking care over what is said, given the press's propensity for distortion. It is felt that the PC does not need to seek help in formulating a policy to deal with these problems.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

PACT email from charity wishing inclusion on website – unsuitable

Letter from CDC about PC's and the planning process – placed in folder

Invitation to ORCC's 90th birthday celebrations – placed in folder

Letter from CDC about compostable caddy liners – not felt worth while

Letter from CDC about the parish liaison meeting – taken by MKB

Letter about process changes for the Rural Housing Needs Survey – placed in folder

Email from Voices of Oxford – to be displayed at the Annual Village Meeting

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application to continue without compliance with conditions – Finmere Quarry –

Addition of flue stack to MRF – permission granted

09/01030/CM-09/01031/CM-09/01302/CM-09/01033/CM – Premier Aggregates –

Continue operations without compliance – appeal against refusal – PC's original submissions will apply

App/C3105/A/09/2116618 – Finmere Quarry – pull down and relocate bungalow – appeal against refusal dismissed

10/00420/F – Finmere Cricket Club – Disabled toilet facilities for cricket pavilion –

The application is straight forward and there are no objections. MKB to reply with one request for clarification on location, 2 plans show site to rear and 1 to front of pavilion.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PC role in running Village Hall BC asks if the PC or PC's themselves are trustees of the Village Hall. IM confirms that for the purposes of the lease the PC is guardian trustee of the Village Hall and Playing Field committees. If no working committee is formed within the village then the PC would administer things. For the purposes of communication one member or regular attendee should be a councillor, MKB attends regularly. BC explains that she was told at the time of the village halls inauguration that if the PC were trustees then all VAT could be reclaimed. IM explains that this is only if the PC are in sole charge, under

present circumstances any VAT payable on projects funded by S137 is reclaimable and utilities only pay VAT at 5%, as private users do.

Anti-social behaviour in Stable Close It has been brought to the attention of AW and ANNW, partly because they are residents of Stable Close, that serious anti social behaviour issues have been arising with cycling on pavements, kicking of balls into windows, name calling, swearing and throwing of stones at windows a regular occurrence perpetrated by some children living in the close. Residents have tried a friendly approach to parents but have received an abusive reply. The situation has reached the stage when people are looking at the possibility of leaving the village as a result of this and the PC is now being asked if it can do anything, possibly banning ball games on the central grass area in Stable Close as this is owned by the PC or maybe calling on the police. It is decided to draft a letter to all residents of Stable Close hoping for a friendly resolution to this problem. AW is to draft the letter for SC to send and MKB is to make the police aware. Hopefully the PCSO may be able to intervene.

Newsletter IM asks if he should prepare a newsletter to introduce the new council to the village. It is decided that brief cv's, but no photos should be included, these to be forwarded to IM by individuals. MKB will write a piece on the Spring Clean including mention of the dog mess problem and dumping of grass cuttings at the site of the old village hall. AW is to write a piece on anti-social behaviour. The deadline for submissions is 18th May.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is set as Tuesday May 25th 2010 for the Annual Village Meeting and Tuesday June 1st for the next PC meeting.

The meeting closed at 22.13.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED

SMP leaflets

Littlethorpe leaflets

Kompan brochure

Countryside Voice Spring 2010

Clerks and Councils Direct May 2010

ORCC Review Spring/Summer 2010

Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum Biodiversity News

Home2School Newsletter Summer 2010

The Playing Field Spring 2010 x 2

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Military Museum letter and flyer

Letter from CDC about PC's and the planning process

Invitation to ORCC's 90th birthday celebrations

Letter about process changes for the Rural Housing Needs Survey